

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

June 22, 1999

4859 '99 JUN 24 A9:52

**Reference:** Docket #98N-1038, Irradiation in the production, processing, and handling of food

**Subject:** No Labeling for Irradiation (E-Beam/Cool Pasteurization)

Thanks for finally approving the use of irradiation to provide consumer protection against food borne diseases in our food distribution system. I am concerned with the extension of the public comment period because people are dying and getting deadly sick from E-Coli and Listeria during this extension. As a consumer, I have become increasingly alarmed at the number of food borne disease cases reported to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) since last year. Irradiation, particularly "cold pasteurization" appears to be highly effective in eliminating the cause of these diseases within processed foods.

Simple ion acceleration and X-ray utility form the basis of "cold pasteurization."

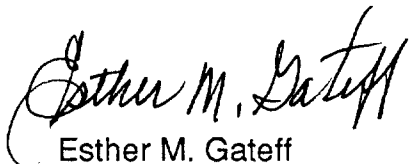
Therefore, I believe **No Label** is required on any product subjected to this type of irradiation (sterilization). There is no residual radiation in the treated foodstuffs, so a radiation symbol would be highly misleading and alarmist.

As a consumer who relies upon the integrity of food in the distribution system, I look forward to the day when products such as hamburgers and hot dogs are "cold pasteurized" and free from food borne diseases such as virulent forms of Listeria, and E. Coli.

If you must use labeling, do it for the Cobalt 70 low radiation type technology only. Do not use it for the E-Beam technology which uses electricity for "cool pasteurization."

I am sending a copy of this letter to my Congressman, the Honorable James P. Moran.

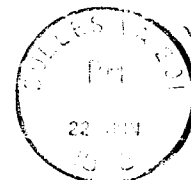
Sincerely,

  
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